



ad astra episode 114

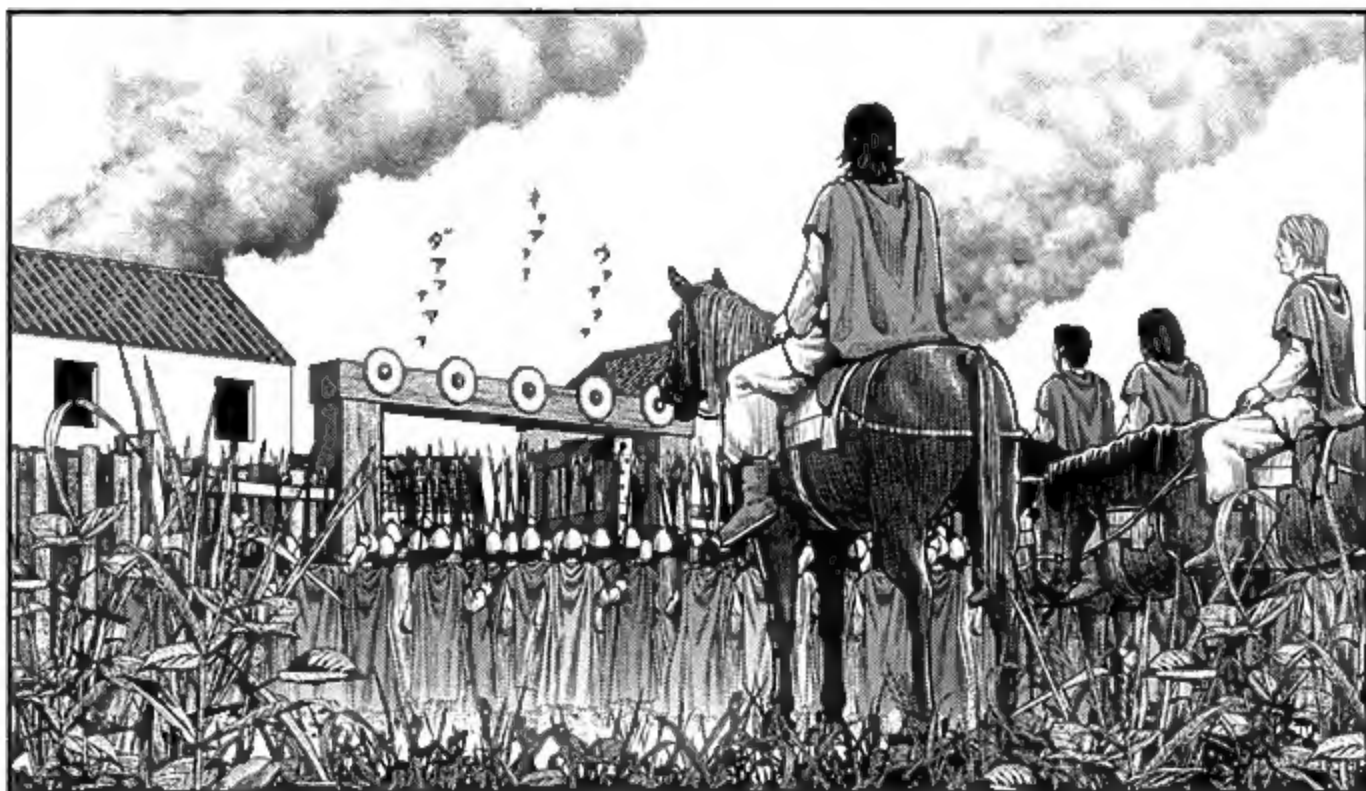
14



AN OLD COMMANDER'S EXPERIENCE
AND A MONSTER'S INTELLIGENCE

ad astra

Publius Cornelius Scipio Africanus Major & Hannibal Barca



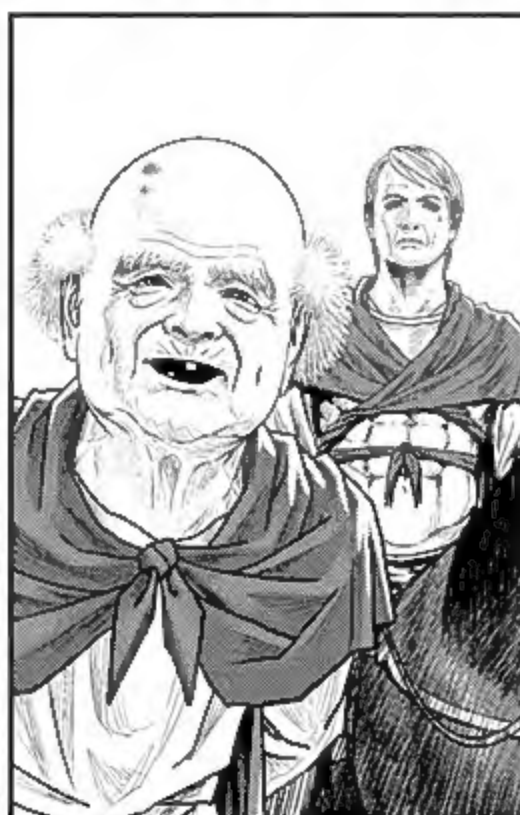
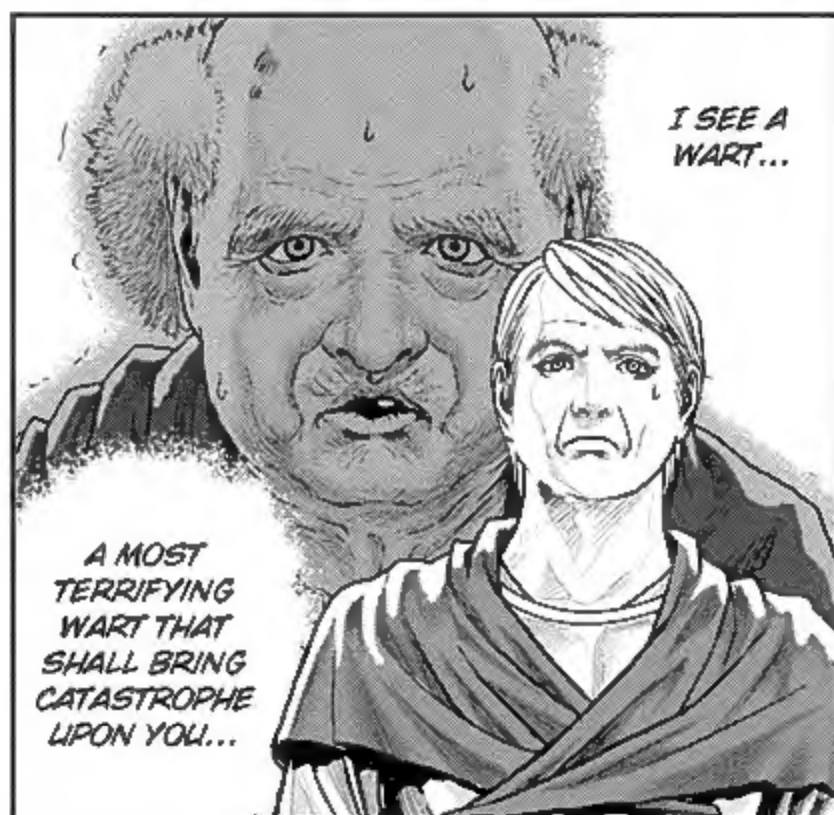


HAND
OVER
YOUR
FOOD!

WHERE
ARE
YOUR
DAUGH-
TERS!?

WHAT
THE HELL!
THERE'S
NOTHING
BUT OLD
HAGS
HERE!

P-
PLEASE,
NO...







THIS FABIUS
OR WHATEVER
AIN'T NO BIG
DEAL AFTER
ALL.

LOOK AT HIM,
HIS COMRADE IS
BEING ATTACKED
BUT HE'S JUST
WATCHING US
FROM FAR AWAY,
ALL WHILE
PISSING HIS
PANTS.

HEH,
SO HE'S
COME TO
WATCH
THE SHOW
AGAIN?

IT SEEMS
THE ROMAN
LEGIONS ARE
COMPLETELY
TERRIFIED OF
US NOW.

SO THIS
IS THE
DICTATOR
FABIUS...



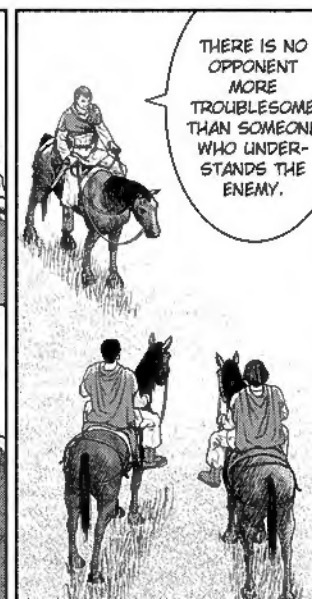
IT IS A
STRATEGY
OF LAST
RESORT.

A BATTLE
OF
ATTRITION
...

THAT IS
SOMETHING
ONLY UNDER-
TAKEN BY A MAN
WHO CLEARLY
UNDERSTANDS
HOW WEAK
HIS POSITION
IS.



W-
WHAT'S
WITH HIM
ALL OF A
SUDDEN?



THERE IS NO
OPPONENT
MORE
TROUBLESOME
THAN SOMEONE
WHO UNDER-
STANDS THE
ENEMY.



IF THIS
BATTLE OF
ATTRITION
DEvised BY
FABIUS WERE
TO DRAG
ON...

OUR
FORCES WILL
GRADUALLY
BE PRESSED
CLOSER AND
CLOSER TO
DESTRUCTION.

WE CANNOT
DEFEAT AN
OPPONENT
WHO STRIVES
TO AVOID
DIRECT
CONFLICT.



YOU
MUST NOT
UNDER-
ESTIMATE
HIM!



THAT IS NO
DIVINATION.
IT IS SIMPLY,
THE LOGICAL
CONCLUSION
IF THIS
WERE TO
CONTINUE.



...HAH?
WHAT DO
YA MEAN
BY THAT?

DON'T TELL
ME YOU'VE
BECOME
SOME SORT
OF ORACLE
AS WELL,
SILENOS.



HE
DISREGARDS
ANY PLEA
FOR HELP
LITTERED
BY HIS
ALLIES,

AND
POSSESSES AN
UNSHAKEABLE
WILL,
IGNORING ANY
PROVOCATION
WE THROW
AT HIM.

IT WOULD
SEEM A
TROUBLE-
SOME
OPPONENT
HAS SHOWN
HIMSELF.



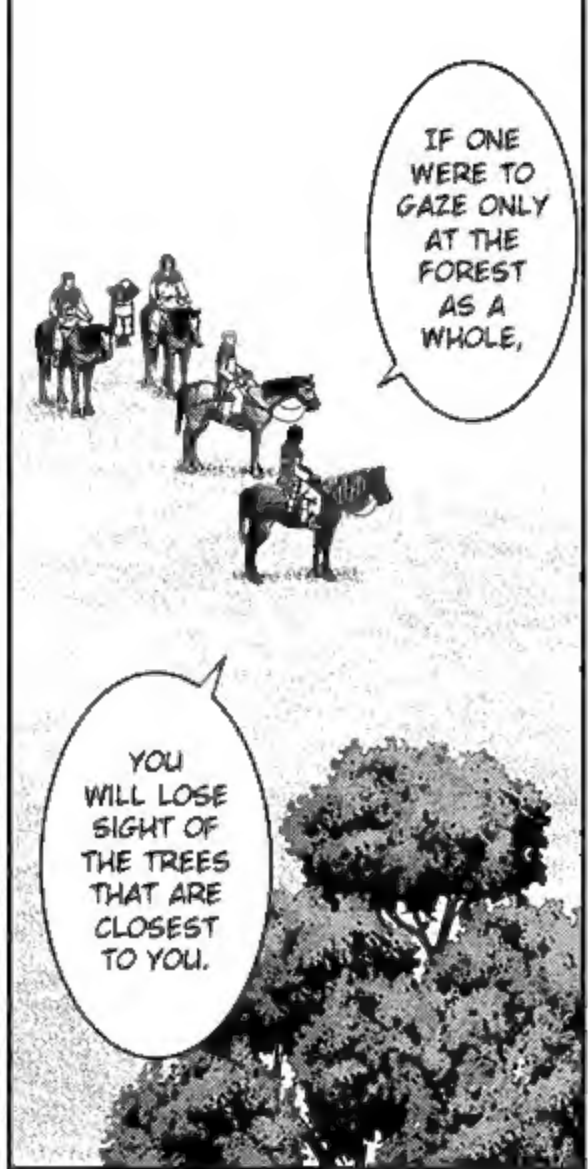
A MAN
WITH AN EYE
CAPABLE OF
SEEING NOT
JUST A SINGLE
TREE, BUT THE
ENTIRE
FOREST.

HE IS A
COLD AND
CALCULATING
TACTICIAN
WHO HAS
DISCARDED
HIS
EMOTIONS.



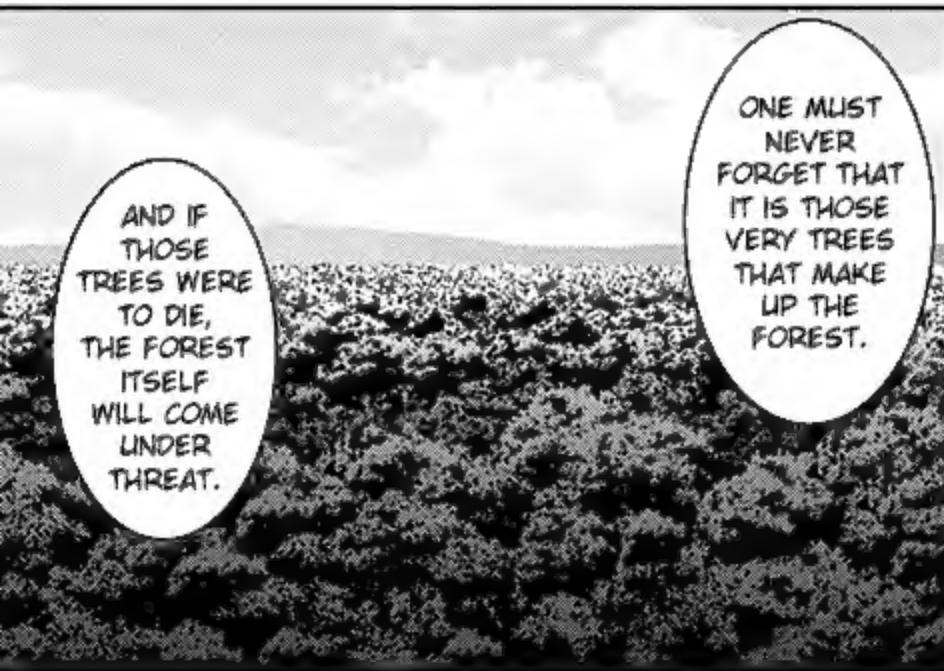
HOWEVER,
SILENOS...





IF ONE
WERE TO
GAZE ONLY
AT THE
FOREST
AS A
WHOLE,

YOU
WILL LOSE
SIGHT OF
THE TREES
THAT ARE
CLOSEST
TO YOU.



ONE MUST
NEVER
FORGET THAT
IT IS THOSE
VERY TREES
THAT MAKE
UP THE
FOREST.

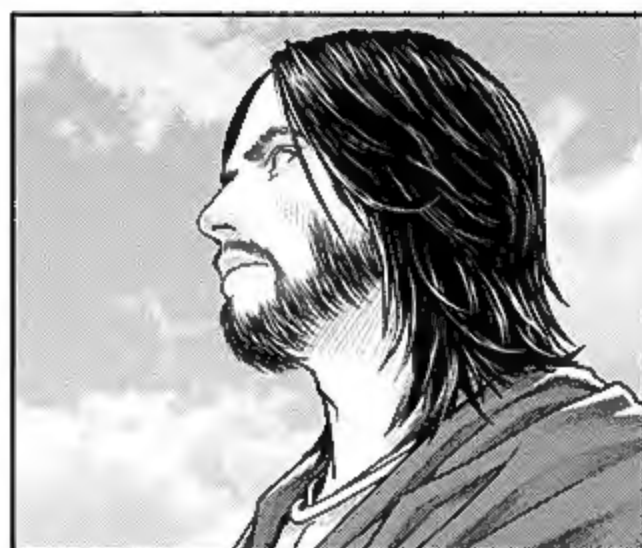
AND IF
THOSE
TREES WERE
TO DIE,
THE FOREST
ITSELF
WILL COME
UNDER
THREAT.

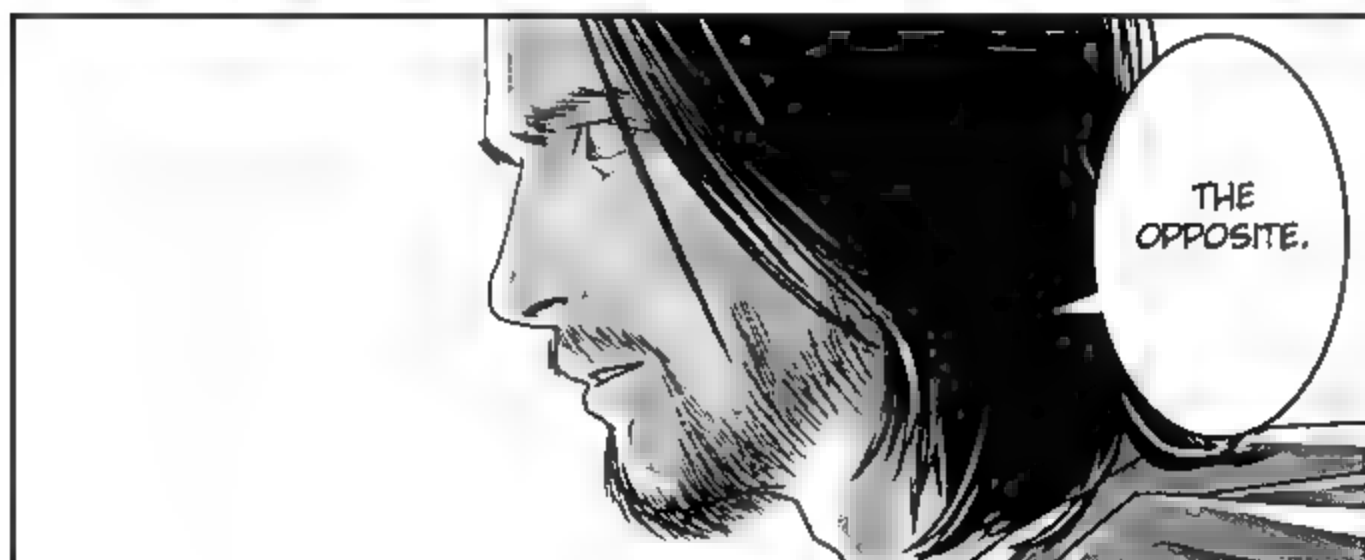
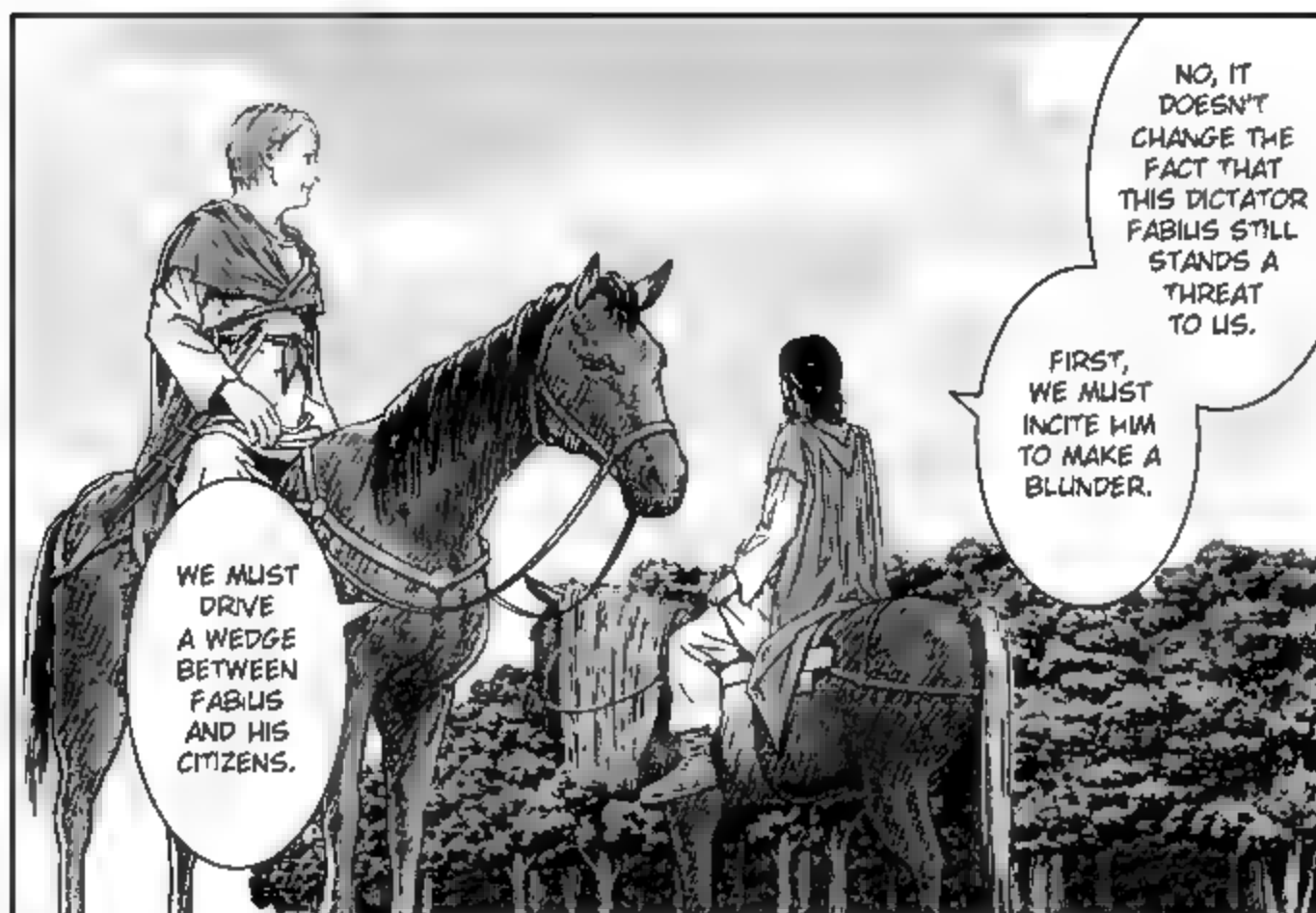


THE
COMMON
PEOPLE ARE
FOOLISH
CREATURES.

NO
MATTER
HOW
FERVENTLY
ONE MAY
EXPLAIN
LOGIC TO
THEM...

THEY WILL
ALWAYS BE
IDIOTS WHOSE
THINKING IS
LIMITED TO
THE CLOSEST
THINGS THEY
CAN SEE.







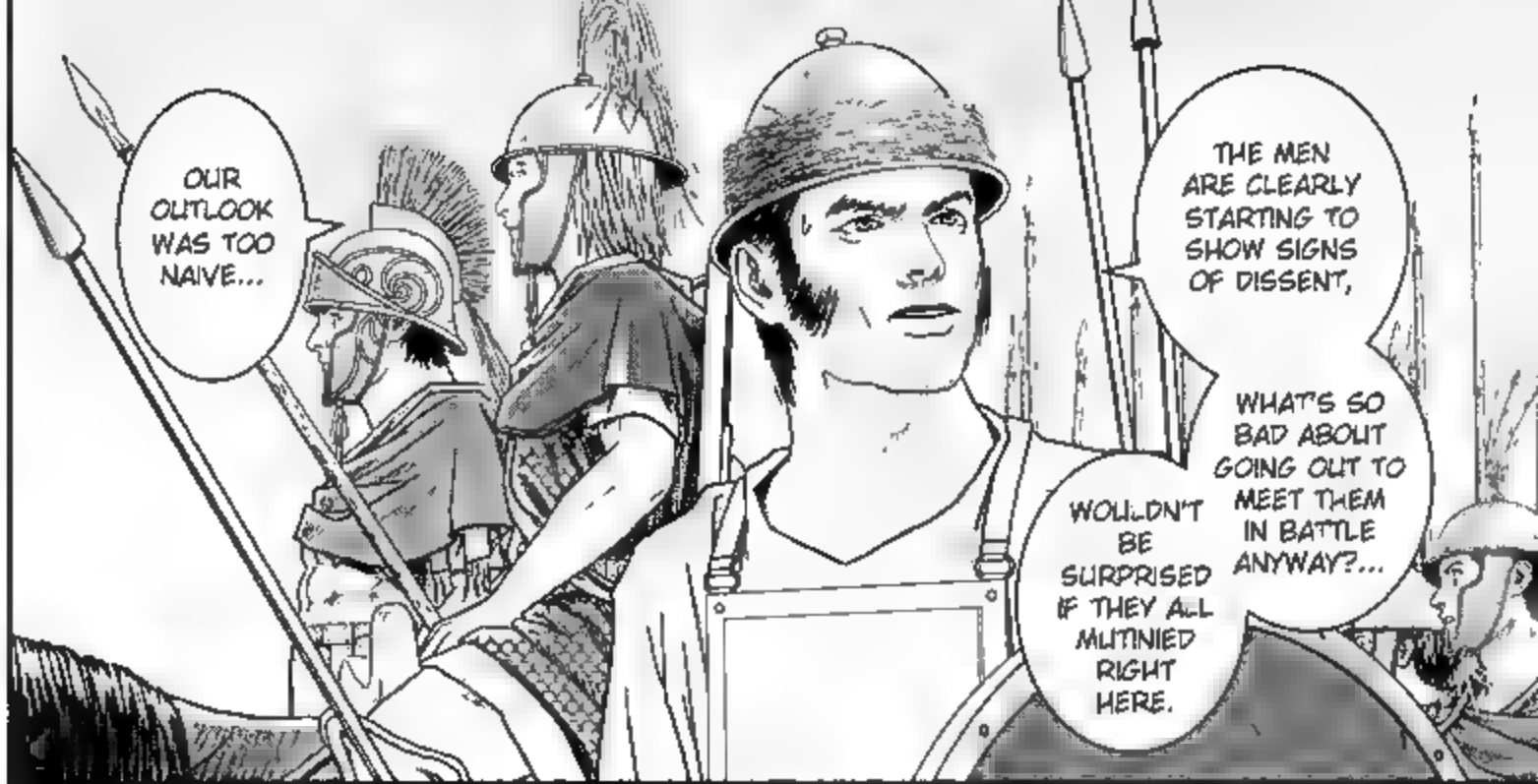
WE WILL
NOT LAY
EVEN A
SINGLE HAND
ON THE
LANDS OF
FABILIS.

WE WILL
INSTEAD LAY
WASTE TO EVERY
SINGLE AREA
THAT DOES NOT
LIE UNDER HIS
CONTROL.



ONE OF
OUR ALLIED
VILLAGES
IS UNDER
ATTACK...

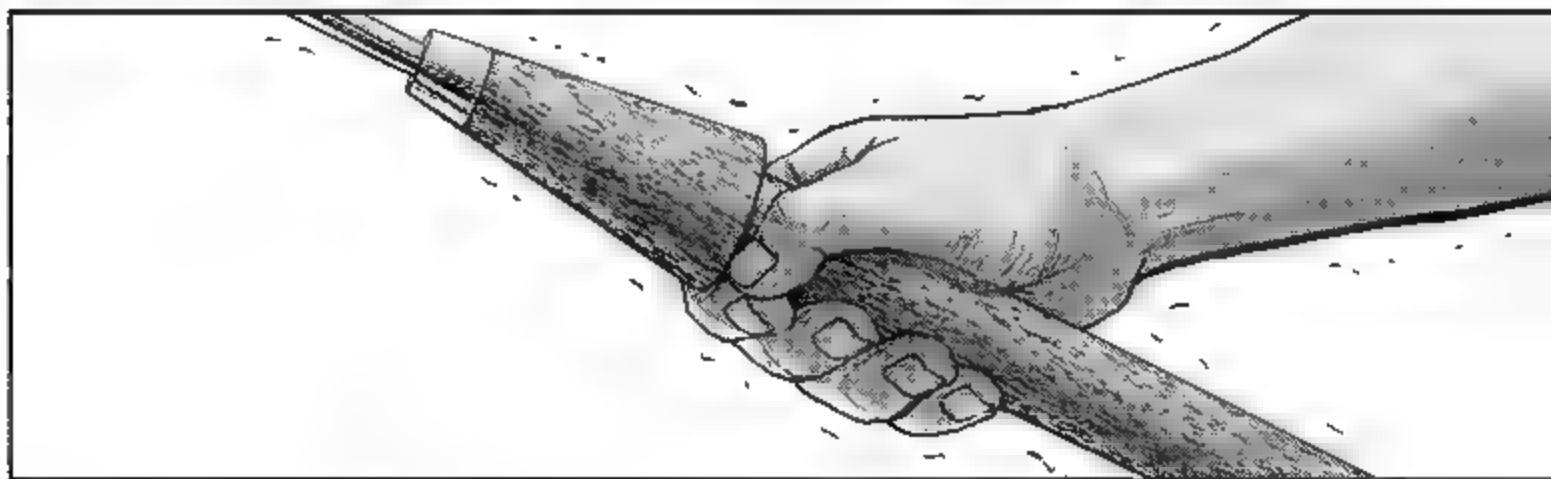
HOW
LONG IS
THIS SORT
OF THING
GOING TO
GO ON
FOR?...











MAGISTER EQUITUM
MARCUS MINUCIUS RUFUS



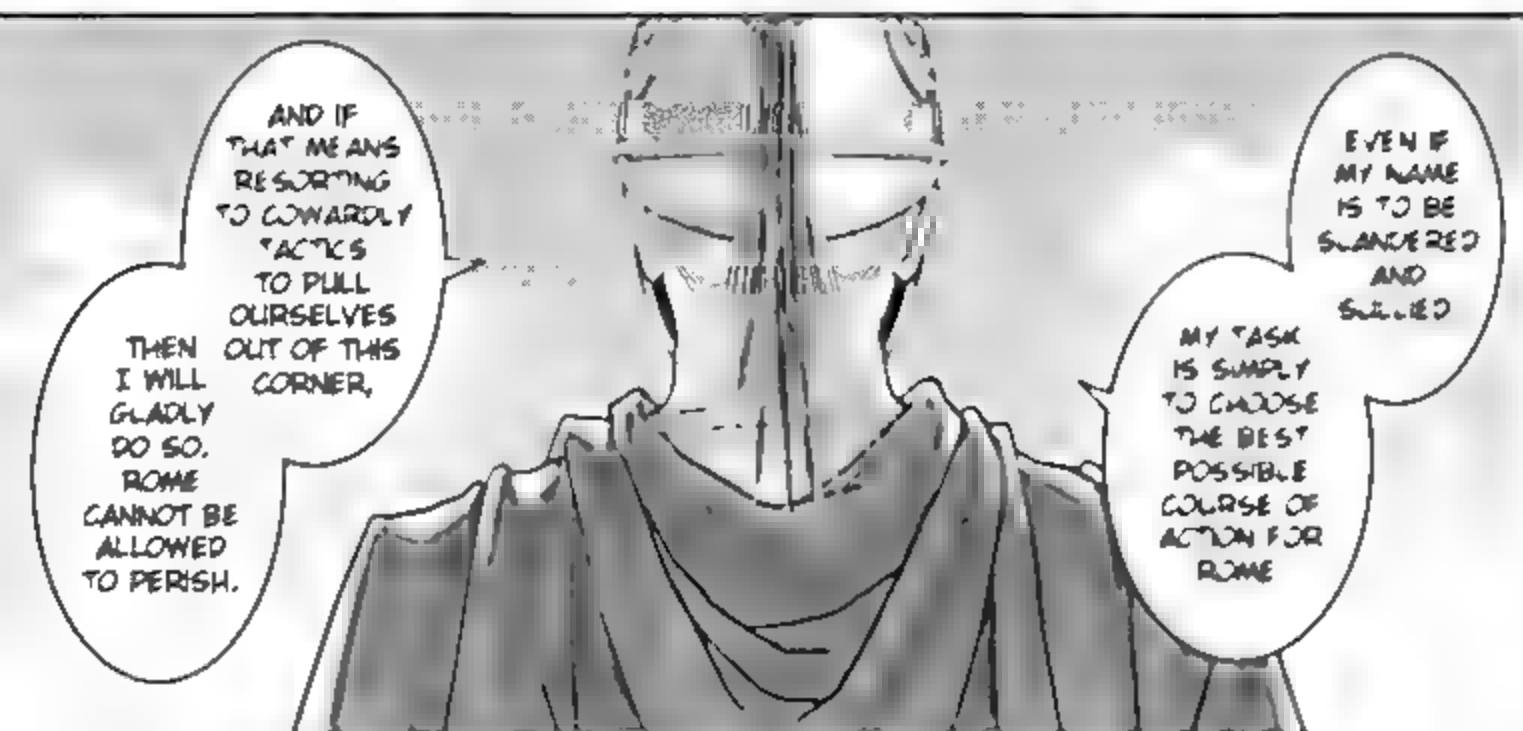


AND THE
DICTATOR IS
A POSITION
GRANTED THE
HIGHEST OF
AUTHORITIES
...

ALL FOR
THE SAKE OF
ALLOWING ROME
TO OVERCOME
WHATEVER
CRISIS SHE MAY
BE FACING.



MINUCIUS,
UNDERSTAND
THAT I AM
THE DICTATOR
OF ROME.



AND IF
THAT MEANS
RESORTING
TO COWARDLY
TACTICS
TO PULL
OURSELVES
OUT OF THIS
CORNER,

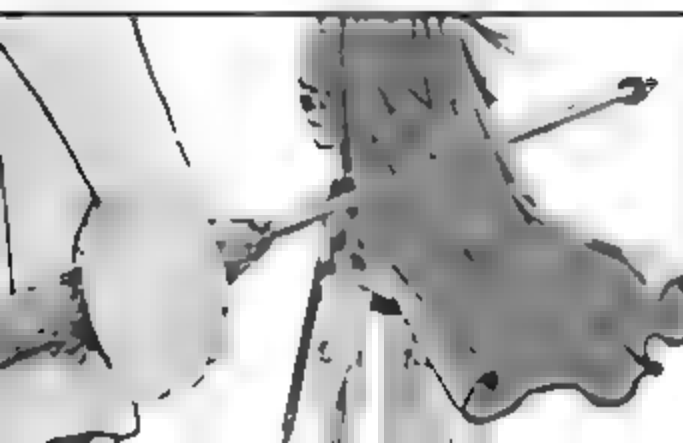
THEN
I WILL
GLADLY
DO SO.
ROME
CANNOT BE
ALLOWED
TO PERISH.

EVEN IF
MY NAME
IS TO BE
SLANDERED
AND
SUILLED

MY TASK
IS SIMPLY
TO CHOOSE
THE BEST
POSSIBLE
COURSE OF
ACTION FOR
ROME



WHAT



O SOLDIER
OF UR
ALLES I
UNDERSTAND
YOUR
WATRED

BUT IF YOU
ARE TO THRUST
THAT PILLUM YOU
HOLD INTO MY
BREAST, I ASK
THAT YOU WAIT
UNTIL AFTER
HANNIBAL HAS
BEEN SLAIN.



AND DIE
CONTENTLY
WITH A
SMILE UPON
MY LIPS.

WHEN THAT
TIME COMES,
I WILL GLADLY
SHOULDER ALL
THE INFAMY
THAT ROME
HAS BORNE.





